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JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER
March 1985

FOREIGN OUTLOOK: GLIMPSES INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD

The struggle for Central America is taking place, for the most part, in a subterranean world of half light. When the press peers too closely, the Pentagon and the CIA try to shut off the view. Even the General Accounting Office, which answers to Congress, has found the blinds pulled down.

How, for example, does the Pentagon slip supplies to the CIA to pass on to its friends in covert operations? The Pentagon doesn't want GAO's auditors to know and has denied them access to a key document on the subject.

I've seen a secret GAO complaint, which says the auditors were merely advised that the Command Relationships Agreement (CRA) "is the guidance for DOD to provide the CIA with goods and services and for the DOD's reimbursement by the CIA. We were also unaware," it adds, "of any audit or review of the CRA."

The Reagan administration laid out plans in advance to discredit Nicaragua's elections last November. The story is told in a "Secret/Sensitive" briefing paper that was prepared for the National Security Council in October. Here was the White House strategy:

- "We shall encourage non-U.S. government experts to make public statements, prepare articles and appear on media programs, especially immediately prior to and following the November 4 elections..."
- Overseas, "we will approach significant and knowledgeable national leaders, in and out of government, to encourage public statements condemning the Nicaraguan elections as they are now set up."
- "We will encourage selected U.S. political figures to contact their counterparts in Europe and Latin America asking that they make public statements criticizing the Nicaraguan elections."

Who are the villains in the Central American drama? The Sandinistas came to power in Nicaragua as the champions of the people. They drove out the hated dictator, Anastasio Somoza, in the name of freedom and democracy. An estimated 80 percent of the Sandinistas believed in the democratic principles they had fought for in the jungles; less than 20 percent were hard-core communists, who wanted to turn Nicaragua into a Soviet satellite.

Unfortunately, the 80 percent were undisciplined and disorganized; the 20 percent were tightly disciplined and highly organized. They used every trick in the communist strategy book to infiltrate the key posts and seize the levers of power. "They stole our revolution," Eden Pastora told me simply. As "Commander Zero," he was a Nicaraguan hero.

The United States rushed the first planeload of economic aid to the new Sandinista government. For two years, the United States was the Sandinistas' biggest benefactor. As its

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reward, the United States was scathingly denounced in communist-inspired propaganda and communist-staged rallies. The communists even succeeded in inserting this line in the new national anthem: "We must fight against the Yankees, the enemies of humanity."

The United States offered to send in Peace Corps volunteers to teach the Nicaraguan people economic skills. Instead, the Sandinistas brought in Cuban advisers to teach them military skills. Remorselessly, the Sandinistas transformed Nicaragua into a communist base, which began exporting its revolution to neighboring countries.